

# Complaint filed regarding scam

Sunday, March 3, 2013

INDIANAPOLIS -- Recently, Secretary of State Connie Lawson announced that Attorney General Greg Zoeller filed a complaint in conjunction with a recent corporate filing scam.

The complaint, filed against Steven John Fata, Corporate Record Services, the Indiana Labor Law Posting Service and the Mandatory Poster Agency, Inc., alleges violations of the Indiana Deceptive Commercial Solicitation Act, the Indiana Deceptive Consumer Sales Act and incurable deceptive business practices.

In January, several Hoosier businesses received scam letters appearing to come from the Business Services Division of the Secretary of State's office attempting to solicit \$125 annually for record keeping.

The letter gave the appearance of coming from a legitimate government agency and cited state law.

Once aware of the scam, Lawson issued a warning to ignore the letter.

"Protecting Hoosiers from financial scams is one of the top priorities of this office," Lawson said. "I appreciate the quick reaction of business leaders to help us prevent Hoosiers from falling victim to the scam. I thank Attorney General Zoeller for filing this action to recover losses for those Hoosiers who did not get our scam alert and to bring these alleged crooks to justice."

"Self-serving fraudsters who waste the money of Hoosier business people by misrepresenting themselves as being affiliated with government agencies will find themselves squaring off against a real government, the State of Indiana, which has no tolerance for the misuse of its good reputation nor the defrauding of its citizens," Zoeller added.

Businesses wishing to check the validity of any mailing from the Indiana Secretary of State should contact the Business Services Division Help Line at 317-232-6576.

In 2008, a similar letter circulated and more than 2,000 businesses fell victim to the scam.

The Attorney General's office prosecuted the case in Marion County successfully.

The judge agreed the letters were misleading with intent to deceive.

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